

# **Spill-Proof Gas Cans: Better for you and the environment**

## **What is a spill-proof gas can?**

**A fuel container that:**

- Automatically shuts off when the target tank is full;
- Automatically closes and seals when removed from the tank;
- Remains closed and sealed when not dispensing fuel;
- Has only one opening for both filling and pouring; and
- Is made from a material that reduces gas vapors that permeate the container.

## **Why is a spill-proof gas can better?**

- **Saves Fuel** (and money!)—fuel can leak, spill and evaporate from conventional gas cans.
- **Protects Your Family's Health**—gasoline vapors contain a number of toxic compounds that can be harmful to your health.
- **Child-Safe**—spill-proof gas cans can protect children from accidental spills and ingestion.
- **Better Indoor Air**—spill-proof cans reduce the odors and vapors that conventional cans release into the air in your car, garage or shed.
- **Better Outdoor Air**—spill-proof gas cans reduce the amount of vapors released into the air, vapors that contribute to ground-level ozone (“smog”).
- **Protects Water**—small gasoline spills can contaminate well water with toxic substances.

## **Do I have to buy a spill-proof gas can?**

No. But new spill-proof gas cans will become increasingly more common on store shelves. Beginning January 1, 2004, Maine retailers may only sell spill-proof gas cans, once their existing stock of regular gas cans is depleted. You can continue to use your old gas can for as long as it lasts, but you may want to consider replacing it to protect your family's health.

## **Where do I find a spill-proof gas can?**

Check your local hardware, automotive, home-improvement, lawn and garden or marine supply store. If they don't carry spill-proof gas cans now, ask them to order them. Or you can check catalogs or the internet. Make sure any spill-proof gas can you is labeled “Spill-Proof System” to ensures it releases the least amount of vapors.

The following companies manufacture spill-proof gas cans:

- **Blitz** ([www.blitzusa.com](http://www.blitzusa.com)). Spill Proof System, (2-plus and 5 gal)

- **Chilton Products.** (<http://www.westernind.com/Plastic/GasCans.htm> ) Models SRC10(1 gal. 6 oz.) and SRC20(2.5 gal)
- **Scepter.** ([www.scepter.com](http://www.scepter.com) )ECO Gasoline Can and Spill-Proof Spout (1, 2, 5 and 6-Gallon).
- **Midwest Can Company.** ([www.midwestcan.com](http://www.midwestcan.com) )

## How do I use my new Spill-Proof can?

Each brand of can works a little differently and you should carefully read the directions included with your can. In general, you (unlock can, engage, etc. etc.)

## What do I do with my old can?

If you choose to replace a leaky old can with a new spill-proof model, make sure that you use up all the gas in the old container (do not pour it out on the ground) and then air out the flammable vapors before you dispose of it as solid waste.

For more safe gas handling and storage tips, visit Gas Tips  
([http://www.state.me.us/dep/rwm/publications/gas\\_tips.htm](http://www.state.me.us/dep/rwm/publications/gas_tips.htm))

## How can I find out more?

**Got Gas?** Maine DEP *In Our Backyard* column  
([http://www.state.me.us/dep/iob/iob\\_174.htm](http://www.state.me.us/dep/iob/iob_174.htm)).

**Chapter 155: Portable Fuel Container Spillage Control.** Gas can regulation.  
(<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rcn/apa/06/096/096c155.doc> )